

Tripler Army Medical Center
Urogynecology Division
OB/GYN Clinic
Cystoscopy

Cystoscopy is a procedure that lets you look directly inside your urethra and bladder. It can be used to:

- Help diagnose a problem with your urethra or bladder.
- Treat certain problems (such as removing kidney stones).

Based on the findings, your doctor may recommend other tests or treatments.

What Is a Cystoscope?

A cystoscope is a telescope-like instrument that contains lenses and fiberoptics (small glass wires that make bright light). The cystoscope may be straight and rigid, or flexible to bend around curves in the urethra.

The Procedure

Cystoscopy can be done in the doctor's office. The doctor and nurse are present during the procedure. You should plan on being in the office for one hour. Prior to the procedure you will be asked to urinate in a cup which will be used to rule out a urinary tract infection. During the procedure:

- You are on a special reclining chair, knees bent and legs. You are covered with a drape.
- Your urethra and the area around it are prepped for the procedure. Anesthetic jelly may be applied to numb the urethra. Other pain medication is not needed.
- The cystoscope is inserted. A sterile fluid is put into the bladder to expand it. You may feel pressure from this fluid.
- The doctor will see the urethra and bladder on a television screen. You may also view the television during the procedure.
- When the procedure is done, the cystoscope is removed.

Risks

There is a risk of a urinary tract infection (2%). There is a small risk of pain, bleeding or injury to the bladder or urethra (<1%).

After the Procedure

You may resume all of your regular activities. Any voiding discomfort (sensation of burning) may be reduced by a liberal intake of fluids. Call your doctor, @ 433-5946, if you have bright red blood in your urine; trouble urinating, a temperature of 101 F (39.3 C), or persistence of pain urinating for more than 24 hours.